

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the title at the top of page 1, with the following amended title:

**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DETERMINING AND MAINTAINING TRUST IN  
DIGITAL IMAGE FILES WITH CERTIFIABLE TIME**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 8, which starts with "This application is related", with the following new paragraph:

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/142,132, filed on July 2, 1999, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference. This application is related to the following co-pending, commonly assigned applications, each of which is incorporated by reference: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/421,279, entitled "SMART CARD SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PROVING DATES IN DIGITAL DATA FILES," filed October 20, 1999; U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/429,360, entitled "PERSONAL COMPUTER SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PROVING DATES IN DIGITAL DATA FILES," filed October 28, 1999; and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/609,646, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PROVING DATES IN DIGITAL DATA FILES," filed July 3, 2000.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 14, which starts with "Referring now to Fig. 7", with the following amended paragraph:

Referring now to Fig. 7, a block diagram of a presently preferred embodiment of the PC system 700 according to the present invention is shown. System 700 generally comprises a PC 720, having a keyboard 740 and mouse 760 attached thereto for inputting digital data into the PC 720, ~~fraud prevention means 760~~ fraud prevention means 560 for proving with certainty the dates and

times that digital-imaging files contained within the PC 720 were accessed, created, modified, stored, or transmitted, and a monitor 780 for displaying such files. As an option, PC 720 may include ~~verification means 780~~ verification means 580, which are adapted to verify the authenticity of a date and time-stamp affixed to such digital-imaging files.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 3, which starts with “Where the fraud prevention means 560”, with the following amended paragraph:

Where the fraud prevention means 560 includes a tamperproof real time clock (RTC) on the motherboard or baseboard as described in the aforementioned U.S. Serial No. 09/429,360, the API means 800 is adapted to retrieve from such RTC a date and a time corresponding to the moment in time that the digital-imaging file was accessed, created, modified, received, saved, or transmitted. With other embodiments, such as where the tamperproof RTC is installed on an expansion card, PC card, or smart card as described in the aforementioned U.S. Serial No. 09/421,279, however, API means 800 is otherwise adapted. In these instances, API means 800 is adapted to sense calls for a timestamp from operating system and/or applications running on the computing means. Thereafter, it uses the date and time from the trusted local time source 610 instead of any date and time of the computing means system clock. Further details regarding the use of the aforescribed API means is set forth in U.S. Serial No. [[\_\_\_\_\_]] 09/609,646, entitled “System and Methods for Proving Dates in Digital Data Files” (Attorney Docket No. ~~32801-888888~~ 32801-164818).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 21, which starts with “According to one embodiment of the present invention”, with the following amended paragraph:

According to one embodiment of the present invention, the time and date of any accessing, creation, modification, receipt, save, or transmission of the entire digital-imaging file 800, or any selected portion 900 portion thereof may be proven in the following manner. Retrieving means 620

selectively retrieves from the local trusted time source 610 a date and a time corresponding to the moment in time that the digital-imaging file was accessed, created, modified, received, saved, or transmitted. That trusted time and date is then appended to the digital-imaging file 800 or selected portion 900 thereof by appending means 630. Thereafter, means 640 is used to sign the saved digital-imaging file with the date and the time retrieved from the trusted time source 610 appended thereto. Means 650 is then used to hash the signed digital-imaging file to produce a digest, and means 660 is used to sign the digest with a key 670 to produce a certificate. Finally, means 680 is used to append the certificate to the saved digital-imaging file, and means 690 is used to save the digital-imaging file with the certificate appended thereto. Alternatively, API means as set forth in U.S. Serial No. [[\_\_\_\_\_]] 09/609,646, entitled "System and Methods for Proving Dates in Digital Data Files" (Attorney Docket No. ~~32801-888888~~ 32801-164818), may be used without signing or hashing digital-imaging file 800 or a selected portion 900 thereof. It should be noted that the system and methods described herein are not limited to two-dimensional digital-imaging files, but may be extended to three-dimensional digital-imaging files without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Moreover, by use of the phrase "selected portion of the digital-imaging file", it should be understood that a plurality of selected portions (e.g., a regular or random array of such selected portions) may be time-stamped in any of the foregoing manners. The system and methods of the present invention are, likewise, not limited to static digital-imaging files, but extend to dynamically rendered digital-imaging files such as those produced by digital video recorders, streaming video, and DICOM-Conforming Devices.